1 SEP 1950

HAY URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1949.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....G.G.Evans, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

HAY URBAN DISTRICT

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1949

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Urban District for the year 1949.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my reponsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 2/50 (Wales).

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

Statistical Summary for the year 1949.

Area.....370 acres.
Population (Census 1931).....1509.
Population (Estimated at midsummer 1949).....1407.
Number of inhabited houses.....448.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 pop.
Legitimate	13.	7.	20.	
Illegitimate	2.	0.	2.	
	15.	7.	22.	15.6

Still Births.....2.
Deaths from all causes.13. 15. 28. 19.9

Maternal Deaths.....Nil.

Deaths under 1 year.....2. Rate per 1000 live births.....90.

Deaths from special causes.
Infectious disease.....Nil
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....One
Other tuberculous disease.....Nil
Cancer.....Four

Area

The district of Hay is a small urban area of 370 acres forming part of the County of Breconshire. It is situated in the northern part of the County and adjoins the counties of Radnorshire and Herefordshire.

The surrounding district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the surrounding residents.

POPULATION Census.1931.....1509.

1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
1386.	1556.	1409.	1450.	1420.	1344.	1345.	1361.	1398.	1407.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years and apply only to the civilian population. It would appear that the population had dropped a little by 1939 from the last census figure, but is slowly increasing in recent years.

It then increased to a maximum in 1941 and now is little higher than the 1939 figure.

The number of inhabited houses in the district is 448 giving an average number of 3.1 persons per house.

BIRTHS.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938			26	19.0
1939			15	11.2
1940	19	20	39	28.0
1941	12	12	24	15.3
1942	19	9	28	19.3
1943	7	17	24	16.5
1944	16	13	29	20.4
1945	16	8	24	17.8
1946	10	14	24	17.7
1947	14	17	31	22,7
1948	6	10	16	11.4
1949	15	7	22	15.6
England and Wales, 1949				16.7

The birthrate for the year under review was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales, and was also lower than the death rate.

DEATHS. After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table;

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938			25	18.3
1939			23	17.3
1940	15	16	31	22.0
1941	11	13	24	15.4
1942	8	16	24	16.1
1943	14	12	26	17.8
1944	13	11	24	16.8
1945	21	10	31	23.0
1946	12	8	20	14.7
1947	10	12	22	16.0
1948	11	12	23	16.4
1949	13	15	28	19.9
England and Wales, 1949				11.7

It will be observed that the deathrate for 1949, was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales, and was higher than the birth rate.

STILL BIRTHS.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938			1	0.7
1939			1	0.7
1940	0	0	0	0.
1941	1	0	1	0.6
1942	0	0	0	0.
1943	0	0	0	0.
1944	1	0	1	0.7
1945	0	0	0	0.
1946	0	0	0	0.
1947	0	0	0	0.
1948	0	0	0	0.
1949	0	2	2	1.4
England and Wales, 1949				0.39

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INFANTILE MORTALITY. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age.

The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938			2	76.8
1939			1	66.6
1940	2	2	4	102.0
1941	0	0	0	0.
1942	1	0	1	36.0
1943	0	1	1	41.0
1944	0	0	0	0.
1945	1	0	1	41.0
1946	1	0	1	41.0
1947	0	0	0	0.
1948	0	0	0	0.
1949	1	1	2	90.0
England and Wales, 1949				32.0

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....13. Females.....15.

Cause.	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis Respiratory System	1	0.
Influenza	1	0.
Cancer Stomach	2	0.
Cancer other sites	1	1.
Intracranial vascular lesions	0	1.
Heart Disease	2	7.
Bronchitis	1	0.
Ulcer Stomach	0	1.
Appendicitis	1	0.
Other digestive diseases	1	0.
Congenital Malformation	1	0.
Violent causes	1	2.
All other causes	1	3.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes.

ILLEGITIMACY. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents of the district in 1949 amounted to Two.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no deaths during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers. The same arrangements existed during the year as in the previous year. Mr.G.G.Evans acted as your Sanitary Inspector, and was employed in a similar capacity by the Rural District of Hay and Painscastle.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford, Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Analyst for the County at Carmarthen whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease could be performed at the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff and at Hereford.
All the milk testing was done by the National Health Testing and Advisory Laboratory at Brecon.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the new National Health Service Act, 1946, certain changes were operative in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. The County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St.John's ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the new Health Act, the County Council were reponsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations were whole time employees of the County Council and district nursing associations, as such, ceased to function.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council are held regularly at Wesley Hall, Oxford Road. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye defects are also available. These are also administered by the County Council.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by Hereford Hospital and Brecon War Memorial Hospital.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and visual defects, and expectant mothers. Provision is also made for the supply of free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, child life, protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply. The water supplies to the district are taken from mountain springs. During the year the water supply could not be regarded as adequate in quantity.

Six bacteriological samples were taken and of these two were unsatisfactory and four were satisfactory. Two suspicious samples were also received from the Swan well supply. It was advised that this water be boiled before consumption.

Some trouble was experienced with the storage reservoir and filter bed at Hay Common and the chlorinating plant occasionally failed to function. During the year the storage reservoir was cleaned and a new filter bed laid.

Progress in the new Esgryn brook and Llanybwchllan schemes appears slow and the provision of an adequate and wholesome supply of water still therefore remains a pressing need in the district.

Number of visits of inspection by sanitary inspector.....31.

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Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the district is not treated in any way but is discharged direct in to the river Wye.

Number of visits made by sanitary inspector in connection with drainage work.....10.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the twice weekly collection and disposal of house refuse. This work is done by the Council employees under the supervision of your sanitary inspector. The refuse is then disposed of by tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the sanitary inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the sanitary inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....28.
Number of complaints investigated.....28.
Number of premises inspected.....78.
Number of premises revisited.....38.
Number of preliminary notices served.....6.
Number of statutory notices served.....0.

There has been great difficulty experienced during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the limited supply of building materials. It is to be hoped that a greater supply of material will soon be available for the repair of domestic property to prevent decent property deteriorating.

Houses let in lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by sanitary inspector.....25.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....26.

Factories.

Number of factories on register.....20.
Number of inspections made.....15.
Number of defects found.....8.
Number of defects remedied.....8.

These defects were want of cleanliness and defective sanitary accommodation, and all were remedied.

Camping Sites. There is no licensed camping site in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps Taken to combat Infestation.

Any premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin is treated with D.D.T. preparations.

Number of premises treated for vermin during the year.....1.

Rodent Control. One full time rodent operative is engaged by the Council. This same operative is also engaged by the Hay Rural Council. This operative worked under the supervision of the sanitary inspector.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....223.
Number of premises found infested.....69.
Number of premises treated by rodent operative.....38.
Number of premises treated by occupier.....31.
Number of dead rats recovered.....78.
Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....713.

The sewers were treated twice in the last quarter of the year.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

SECTION 5. HOUSING.

There was no appreciable difference in the housing conditions in the district during the year. Owing to the complete cessation of building operations during the war years the housing situation was acute. The Council had under construction 10 houses during the year, 20 having been completed. Work was also commenced on the conversion of the isolation hospital into 3 flats.

Number of house to house inspections made.....61.

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk On October 1st of the year the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, came into operation. Under this Act the supervision of farm buildings connected with the production of milk became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Local Authorities were left with the control and licencing of distributors.

Up to 1st October milk sampling was continued under the National Milk Testing Advisory Scheme with the following results;

Number of samples in Category A.....50.
Number of samples in Category B.....14.
Number of samples in Category C.....30.

From 1st October to end of year no samples were taken.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in the district. All meat to the district is supplied from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Point at Brecon.

Other Foods.

Number of tins condemned.....255.
Number of pounds condemned.....176.
Meat condemned.....45¼ lbs.

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Food Preparation Rooms (Including Bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....3.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made.....11.

Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made.....2.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following number of notifiable infectious diseases were reported to me during the year.

Diphtheria.....1 case
Measles.....3 cases
Puerperal fever.....1 case

The district therefore was free of any severe epidemic of infectious disease. Two of these cases were removed to hospital. None of these cases proved fatal.

Under the new Health Act, all fees paid by the Council for the notification of infectious disease are refunded by the County Council, provided that copies of the notifications are received by that authority.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years;

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....9.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....0.
Number of cases removed due to death.....1.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....0.
Number of cases removed as left the district.....0.
Number of cases left on the register at end of year.....8.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below;

1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
2.	4.	2.	3.	4.	4.	3.	6.	6.	0.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were reponsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

There was one case of diphtheria in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R.George,
Medical Officer of Health.